

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----109582 162212Z /61

O 162142Z JUN 78 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN LONDO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 07027

EXDIS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.), PDEV CG RA AO NI UK
SUBJECT: VANCE - OWEN MEETING ON AFRICA

MET WITH DAVID OWEN, CARVER, PALLISER, AND MANSFIELD
JUNE L6. THE DISCUSSION CENTERED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON
AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

2. ZAIRE: DURING THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION, MOOSE
RECEIVED WORD THAT SIMONET HAD INFORMED THE FRENCH HE
OPPOSED ANY DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU, EITHER INDIVIDUAL OR
COLLECTIVE. OWEN ASSUMED SIMONET'S POSITION STEMMED
FROM THE CURRENT CABINET CRISIS IN BELGIUM. HE UNDER-
TOOK TO CALL SIMONET TO DISCUSS HIS REASONS AND URGE
BELGIUM TO GO ALONG WITH ITS FOUR COLLEAGUES. (AFTER
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THE MEETING, HOWEVER, WE LEARNED THAT SIMONET IN FACT
HAD REJECTED ONLY THE IDEA OF INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES,
INSISTING INSTEAD ON A COLLECTIVE DEMARCHE. IF THE
FRENCH ARE PROPOSING IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TO GO AHEAD
WITHOUT THE BELGIANS, OWEN MAY STILL CALL SIMONET TO
URGE AGREEMENT.)

3. THE SECRETARY RAISED HIS CONCERN, BASED ON CONVERSATIONS IN PARIS, THAT THE NON-MOROCCAN ELEMENTS OF THE AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA APPARENTLY ARRIVED WITH LITTLE EQUIPMENT, FEW VEHICLES, AND IN SOME INSTANCES WITHOUT WEAPONS. MOREOVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO CLEAR COMMAND STRUCTURE, AND NO PROVISION FOR THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF THE UNITS. THE SECRETARY HAD TOLD THE FRENCH WE WOULD CONSIDER REQUESTS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS WHEN THINGS WERE BETTER SORTED OUT. OWEN SAID HE WAS WARY OF THE OPEN-ENDED NATURE OF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT ALL UNITS AT LEAST NOMINALLY COME UNDER ZAIRIAN AUTHORITY. THE SECRETARY SAID IF WE PROVIDE SUPPLIES, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO PROVIDE THEM TO THE GOZ WHICH IN TURN WOULD MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE SHABA FORCE.

4. NAMIBIA: OWEN SHOWED THE SECRETARY A MESSAGE HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM GENSCHER WHICH ENCLOSED A STIFF LETTER FROM BOTHA STATING SOUTH AFRICAN PLANS TO ANNOUNCE THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN NAMIBIA. OWEN CALLED THIS UNHELPFUL BUT NOT DAMAGING INASMUCH AS THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD NOT ANNOUNCED A DEFINITE DATE FOR THE REGISTRATION. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE WORK OF THE FIVE MUST BE BROUGHT TO A CONCLUSION SPEEDILY. HE AND OWEN DECIDED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO DEVELOP CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR PRESENTING THE PROPOSALS TO THE

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SECURITY COUNCIL SOMETIME DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26. OWEN AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS TOO SOON TO SET A DEFINITE DATE FOR THIS MOVE.

5. RHODESIA: THE SECRETARY AND OWEN REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF THE GRAHAM/LOW MISSION, CONCLUDING THAT BOTH SIDES OF THE DISPUTE WERE BEGINNING TO SENSE THE NEED TO ALTER THEIR POSITIONS. OWEN FOUND SMITH'S BBC INTERVIEW OF THE PREVIOUS DAY "STRANGE," ALTHOUGH IT CLEARLY REFLECTED HIS GROWING CONCERN THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS IN TROUBLE AND MAY BE A PRELIMINARY SIGNAL THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN WIDER TALKS. IN DISCUSSING THE RHODESIAN PROPOSAL FOR SECRET, OFFICIAL-LEVEL TALKS, THE SECRETARY AND OWEN AGREED THAT WE SHOULD PUT THE PROPOSITION TO NKOMO DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT THIS WEEK IN THE SAME TERMS AS GRAHAM AND LOW HAD PUT IT TO MUGABE JUNE 15. THE SECRETARY AGREED TO MEET WITH NKOMO FOR THIS PURPOSE.

6. THE TWO SECRETARIES AGREED THAT THE GRAHAM/LOW MISSION SHOULD PROCEED IN ITS INFORMAL, LOW-KEY MANNER. OWEN SPECULATED THERE COULD BE A SUDDEN BREAK IN THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 SECTO 07027

EXDIS

SITUATION AT ALMOST ANY TIME. TINY ROWLAND IS ATTEMPTING TO PUT TOGETHER AN NKOMO-SITHOLE ALLIANCE, THERE ARE CONTINUING PROBLEMS INSIDE THE ZANU ORGANIZATION, NKOMO IS TRYING TO DISCOVER WHAT TERMS THE INTERNAL PARTIES MIGHT OFFER HIM, CHIKEREMA IS MANEUVERING, AND SMITH IS CLEARLY WORRIED. MOOSE SAID THAT ONCE SMITH BEGINS TO CAST ABOUT FOR WIDER TALKS, SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA WILL RECOGNIZE THEY ARE IN A LEAKY BOAT. THE PROBLEM IS THE RECOGNITION MAY COME TOO LATE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WHATEVER FLEXIBILITY REMAINS ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SIDE.

7. AFTER THE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, MUNRO OF THE FCO EAST AFRICA DEPT CALLED TO SAY OWEN HAD JUST SPOKEN WITH
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SIMONET BY PHONE. SIMONET TOOK OWEN'S POINT THAT BELGIUM ONLY STOOD TO LOSE BY HOLDING OUT ON THE PLAN FOR INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES. SIMONET RELENTED AND SAID HE WOULD PROMPTLY INSTRUCT HIS EMBASSY IN KINSHASA TO PROCEED WITH INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES USING THE TEXT AND PROCEDURES AGREED IN PARIS THIS MORNING.

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